

PARCEL POST CARRIERS WILL NOT GET HOLIDAY

All Incoming Packages Will Be Delivered To-Day If Within Human Power.

BUSINESS IS UNPRECEDENTED

Twenty-Five Wagons Used in Carrying Christmas Gifts to People of Richmond—Monthly Deficit Wiped Out Completely.

Essaying the role of Santa Claus, the parcel post carriers will work all day endeavoring to deliver the belated Christmas gifts which reached here last night, or will come in on the morning trains. The other carriers, however, will not make their rounds, but mail will be delivered on call between the hours of 9 and 11 o'clock this morning.

Yesterday saw the backbone of the outgoing mail break, but the incoming mails were beyond anything ever seen in this city. Literally there were mountains of parcels stacked in the parcel post temporary quarters on Cary Street waiting for distribution and delivery. The main floor of the three floors used for sorting the parcels was covered with pieces of mail of various sizes, and the large force of clerks worked at a speed getting them sorted for the carriers.

TWENTY-FIVE WAGONS AND EXTRA CARRIERS AT WORK

Twenty-five wagons each made two loads yesterday, making nearly 1,500 packages of parcels delivered by them. In addition, 129 carriers were pressed into the service to deliver parcels along with their regular mail. The amount was unprecedented, and only for the extra carriers taken by Postmaster Hay T. Thornton and Superintendent of Mails H. M. Lawler, the congestion would have assumed serious proportions, as many persons would have been disappointed in the failure of their presents to arrive. As it is, there is an excellent chance for the floors to be cleared of their burdens before nightfall.

On December 15 the postal receipts at the local office were \$5,000 less than at the same period in 1913. Yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock this deficit had been wiped out, and in the remaining hours of the day a tidy surplus was noted. December will probably show an increase, which will be the first in three months.

AUTOMOBILES PROVE OF FINEST SERVICE

Much of the excellent results obtained by the local office in caring for the holiday rush was due to the installation of automobiles in the collection service. These speedy machines kept down the congestion in the substations, and aided the dispatching force to get cleaned up on each day's work before mail began to pile up on them.

There was one branch of the local service which did yeoman service, and that was the parcel post terminal, which handled all parcels consigned in bulk for North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. More than 1,500 packages were received yesterday. Each of these had to be emptied, the packages sorted and re-consigned to their points of destination. All of this work was done in the basement of the post-office building.

Postmaster Thornton said yesterday that he had not thought the business this year as heavy as last year until he saw the figures reported by Cashier Melton. The fact that incoming parcel post was handled in an outside building made the volume look smaller, but if it had been brought to the main building it would have been impossible to handle the Christmas rush at all.

FINAL PAYMENT MADE

Replica of Mt. Vernon at San Francisco Now Belongs to State.

The last payment to the building contractors who constructed the Mount Vernon building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, has been made. Secretary Forward, of the Virginia Commission, yesterday received from Franz & Fischer, the contractors, an acknowledgment of the final payment of \$50,000 in the form of a receipt in full.

On January 5 the car containing the Virginia exhibit, the Santa Claus, is to start on its journey across the continent. The trip will be made in three weeks, the car being attached to freight trains moving over the several different lines of railroad that must be traversed. The loading of this car will begin in Washington, D. C., December 31, where the furniture for the Mount Vernon building and the transparencies painted by the State Department, advertising the agricultural resources of the State will be put aboard. The car will be then run to this city, where the major part of the agricultural exhibit and the whole of the educational exhibit will be loaded on. The State Board of Health will contribute some items to the Virginia exhibit, showing health activities in the Commonwealth.

CHRISTMAS CHEER IN JAIL

Henrico Jailer Busy Preparing Pleasant Surprises for Prison Inmates.

Prisoners in the Henrico County Jail will fare well on Christmas Day, Santa Claus will not forget them. Deputy Sheriff R. C. Garnett, who is in charge of the prison, was busy last night preparing many agreeable Christmas surprises for the prisoners to-day.

All three of their meals to-day the prisoners will be given special "feasts." At breakfast the menu will be beefsteak and fresh bread, and for Christmas dinner they will be served chicken, turkey, vegetables, pies, fruits and other delicacies.

After dinner a "smoker" will be given when the prisoners will be supplied with tobacco in any form they desire. For supper light bread and beef stew will be served.

Special Christmas services will be held in the jail, conducted by an evangelist, assisted by other religious workers. Christmas Day could be spent more enjoyable outside of prison walls, but prisoners in Henrico jail will not fare so badly to-morrow, and they are looking forward to the day with pleasant anticipations.

ANCIENT BOOK RECOVERED

Volume Captured by Federal Officer Is Returned to Owners After Many Years.

The old order book of Charles City county, dating from 1656 to 1666, will be turned over to the officers of that county to-day. The book was surrendered by the owners in this city on the payment of \$100, which was the approximate cost of the book several years ago.

In the book is a written statement showing how the old volume was stolen during war times and carried away and sold. The statement says: "Captured by me in Charles City Courthouse, Va., August 15, 1862, on the march from Providence Landing to Yorktown, with the wagon train of Kearney's Division. The statement is signed: 'George H. Hickman, first lieutenant and adjutant of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and assistant adjutant-general of Ward's Brigade, Third Division.'"

The book was sold to John Campbell's Book Mart in Philadelphia, in 1863, and later passed to the hands of Thomas H. Wayne. The exact date of these transactions is not known. The persons who last owned the book, when apprised of the true facts in the case, agreed to surrender it.

INTER BODY OF SUICIDE IN HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., to Conduct Services Over Miss Smith This Morning.

BROTHERS HERE FOR FUNERAL

No Further Reason for Leap From Mutual Building Window Discovered by Police—Note Mystery Is Explained—Suicide Premeditated.

The funeral of Miss Elizabeth Smith, twenty-two years old, a native of Oxford, N. C., who has been living at 15 South Fifth Street during the last several months, and who Wednesday afternoon committed suicide by leaping from a window on the tenth floor of the Mutual Building, will take place from the office of Undertaker L. T. Christian this morning at 10 o'clock. Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., of the Second Presbyterian Church, will conduct the services, and the body of the young woman, whose death cast a pall over the holiday celebrations of the city, will be interred in a section in Hollywood Cemetery.

Richard T. and Lewis H. Smith, brothers of the suicide, and a sister, Miss Fannie Smith, arrived in Richmond yesterday.

PURCHASE FAMILY SECTION IN RICHMOND BURYING GROUND

Efforts on the part of Detective Willy yesterday failed to bring to light any further reasons for the suicide. The fact that she had been in ill health about \$125 within the two years she had been in this city, is said to have caused despondence, and to have led to the wild leap from the skyscraper.

According to those who are said to have known her well, there was no love affair connected with the causes which led her to take her life. Several young women who knew Miss Smith have said that she was rather peculiar at times, and would do the most unusual and unexpected things, and this has led to the supposition that she might possibly have been suffering from an attack of mental derangement at the time she jumped from the window.

SUICIDE PREMEDITATED, ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE

In any case, the suicide was evidently premeditated. Contrary to her usual custom, Miss Smith refused to allow Miss Bigger, with whom she boarded, to accompany her as she left the house. She had written the telephone number of her residence on a bit of cardboard, and this was the clue which later led to her identification. The mystery of the torn note, which was found near the spot where her body fell, was solved yesterday when a newspaper man explained that it was one written to him by a friend, and that he had torn off the bottom of the sheet of paper to make his notes upon. The other sections were evidently lost from his coat pocket.

Several persons saw the young woman as she climbed into the window of the women's waiting room, and as she fell hurtling through the air. A large crowd gathered in the well of the Mutual Building in an effort to pass the corridor, and to satisfy their morbid curiosity with one look at the mangled form. They came and went from the spot for hours after the body had been removed to the undertaker's establishment.

The suicide was one of the most spectacular which has occurred in Richmond in years. It is the first in which a person has jumped from a skyscraper, although several months ago a woman was caught in the attempt, and was prevented before she was able to throw herself from the window. Some years ago a man committed suicide by jumping from the City Hall tower to the pavement below.

HONOR POPULAR CONDUCTOR

Captain W. T. Petway, of Richmond, conductor on the Atlantic Coast Line's "commuters" train, between Richmond and Petersburg, was presented with handsome gold cuff links, scarf pin and the clasp on his regular trip over yesterday morning. The gift was from "regulars" among the passengers, who make the round trip nearly every day in the year.

Willis B. Smith, of Petersburg, whose law offices are in Richmond, presented the Christmas present to the popular trainman. Captain Petway was completely surprised when presented with the gift, and at first he was overcome by modesty. When he realized, however, what it was all about he proved himself master of the situation and made a short speech of thanks to the men and women on the train who had remembered him in such a substantial way.

Passengers on the train also gave the colored porter a Christmas present, showing their appreciation of his faithful service.

Convicted of Pipe Theft.

H. L. Jones, colored, arrested by Policeman Walsh on a charge of stealing a lot of iron pipe from the city of Richmond, was convicted of the crime and was sentenced to jail for thirty days, in Police Court yesterday.

Christmas!

At this season of "Good Will," we are thinking of our thousands of friends, wishing them all that Good Fortune can bring!

Planters National Bank

Christmas Greetings

from
Walter D. Moses & Co.
Oldest Music House in Va.
and N. C.

White & Co.

323-24 American National Bank

Wishes You a

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

We Wish You

A Merry Christmas

and a

Happy and Prosperous

New Year

Sydnor & Hundley

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

TRUSTING YOUR PATRONAGE WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AS IN THE PAST.

R. L. Christian & Co.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your valued patronage and

Wish You A

Very Merry Christmas

J. T. Allen & Co.

14th and Main



Christmas Day

The closing of this store means a Christmas holiday to some six hundred of our faithful co-workers, who, while some blunders must necessarily follow such gigantic and hurried work as the later days to Christmas demand of them, deserve our thanks and appreciation for their intelligent and assiduous work.

To those few who met with a misrule, we apologize. Some errors will and must enter all human affairs, but not a blunder on the part of any one of the Cohen Store but what is cheerfully corrected at request.

The great crowds that bowed to the courtesy of this store for its gift supply are evidence of the greater confidence that is dominant between this store and its careful working system.

Let us hope that each Christmas will find this store better and more useful, and a cheering institution at all times to those who look to the progress of our city and the good work of the Cohen Store.

Let us congratulate one another on the growth of both.

The Cohen Co., Inc.



The Gift of Your Voice—and Smile

THE best gift of all at Christmas time is the gift of your voice—and smile. It's a gift of friendliness and of thoughtfulness for others. It's a gift of your happiness to those who may have less. It's a gift that the telephone can deliver for you here, there, and everywhere, on this best of days.

Why not make the most of your Christmas day and send your voice and smiles out over the miles, to your friends who are far away?

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia

